

**Town of Vernon  
Vernon Gym  
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)  
November 14, 2024**

**Regular Meeting:** The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Mayor Wayne Zamora at 6:30 PM. A budget hearing was held immediately preceding the regular meeting.

Town officials: Mayor Zamora, Clerk Bender and Council members: Fields, Post and Walker – present; Britt Burgmeier/Marshal and Steven Pennycuff/Fire Chief – absent; Legal Counsel Kage - present

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Approval of October 14, 2024 minutes**

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the October 14, 2024 Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber Fields made a motion to approve the October 14, 2024, minutes. Jeff Walker seconded. 2-0. John abstained

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes, 1 abstained

**III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present:**

a. The Drydens were present to express their concerns about liability of people getting hurt on their property if it has anything to do with the new trail. There was some discussion about property lines involving the river and the park. It is highly unlikely that their property is part of the trail but Brad Bender will go to the courthouse to determine property lines so as to ease their minds and assure them as to boundaries.

**IV. Reports from Committees and Officers**

A. Mayor Wayne Zamora - Jennings County Players would like to have more of a presence here in the building but is trying to work around our already busy schedule. Maybe we need to look into trying to generate more revenue. How to open the building up to more people once it becomes more viable.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Any fences need to be sent to Area Plan Commission. Next year is an election year, do we need to hold an election if no one is opposed. Will check on this with the State and County.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - By June of next year we need to have audio and video available at the town meetings, we need to find a solution to this problem. T-Mobile grant rejected, will try for a 3rd time, may have to come up with other fundraising ideas. Mary from the library has offered trivia they didn't use as a fundraiser if we want to use it. Conversations about other uses for the gym, Centerstone approached him about using the Gym as a pop-up place to use for their services for individual client services. Other gym concepts were for converting our kitchen to a commercial kitchen, Deidre from the Health Department may be interested in looking at our facility. Another matter, a child was lost for about an hour but luckily found inside the house.

- D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - nothing to report.
- E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - LTAP approved and 1782 notice is approved.
- F. Brad Kage - Attorney -
- G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall -absent John- probation maintenance wants to use electricity from one of our power sources.
- H. Brian Clark– Contract Maintenance - absent
- I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - absent

**V. Unfinished Business**

a. Brad Bender in reporting on the Next Level Trails Grant presented a new timeline and change orders that were requested or needed by the town or required. Asked for approval for change order #002 which is a total of \$12,000, and change order 003 which is a deduct of \$15,000 for a wall that is not needed. Fields motioned to approve the change orders, Post seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Interlocal agreement needed by the county for dispensation of funds. Post motioned to approve, Amber seconded, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. John was questioning what kind of topping would be in the alley between Jackson and Washington, it will be concrete. He also asked about the fiber repair done and if it went through the culvert? Brad said SEI repaired it properly but will look into the damage done to the culvert and contact them if more repairs are needed. Can we still pursue the tree that was damaged? Brad is constantly pushing O'Mara to finish the 75% still left to finish.

b. OCRA Wastewater Grant - Public meeting needed for the Bid Award, Amber motioned for a public meeting on 2/27/25, Jeff seconded the motion. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

c. Park Board meeting time changed to 12/9/2024 to 4:30, Brad Kage will advertise. Stacey will step off board after December, will need a replacement. Do we need an ordinance to change the name? Brad Kage said a resolution can be passed to rename the park. Wanting to make sure we can increase insurance; Amber suggested an inspection for the playgrounds. John was asking about Mikey Brown and his project; he was under the impression he would get other projects but that is not the case. He was paid and had to sign an agreement to pay money back if the project is not finished by timeline.

d. BSCC grant needs Department of Historic Preservation approval, they are OK with moving forward with projects other than the windows and the chair lift. Indiana Landmarks is helping to support our work. Amber feels as if we keep the facade in line with their requests, we should be approved. They approved the HVAC system but need to wait on approvals but feel as they will be forthcoming.

e. MHS grant was asked for the money for the grant upfront and deposited to the Friends of Historic Vernon, a lot of work has been done and the wiring for the building and internet is about 90% finished and hopefully will have internet connection by December. The way all of the funds dispersed on different grants was questioned.

f. Patronicity Bathroom grant timeline is for project to be finished by the end of December. Since soccer club has come to town, the traffic has increased greatly. Will ask soccer club to contribute to help offset increased costs.

g. Library will not open until February at the earliest.

h. Metronet, will invite Jessica to another meeting, she has put together information.

i. John wants no parking on East side of Pike Street from South to Washington St. Will need to write an ordinance. More trash cans will be needed, the ones along with trail will help.

## VI. New Business

- a. Nick Templeton questioned getting billed for properties where leaks are discovered, a master meter was discussed with properties over 15 units and then billing Nick Templeton himself. There is a need to meet with Nick to discuss issues.
- b. Steele Myers questioned the sewer lateral; we want him to get a quote and possibly split the difference since he wasn't given the opportunity to get his own quote and contractor and was given misinformation from the former utilities superintendent.
- c. Sidewalk proposal, Wayne initiated a proposal to set aside \$10,000 to be able to match 25% for people willing to improve their own property. Council is willing to look into this further and take steps to initiate some of our needs. More discussion to ensue.
- d. MUSC Lease Renewal - They requested a 2 year pause since French drains were added and want a 10-year lease. Five years maximum was discussed with a raise to \$300 for the remaining years.
- e. Christmas Events - we want a tree, Jeff motioned to get a tree, Amber seconded. 3 Yes votes and 0 No votes. The float is a no.
- f. Street Vendor Fees - No Charge for an activity on 11/23/2024.
- g. Fire Department Utility Issue, they are asking for help in paying for a backflow issue they encountered, could pay for it from the public safety funds.

## VII. Claims

- a. Amber made a motion to approve the claims, Jeff seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

## VIII. Miscellaneous Business

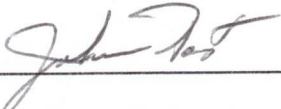
- a. Krista Huff will go to court to address unpaid water/sewer balance.
- b. Meters not being installed, need to address immediately.
- c. IDEM Reports needed to verify that deficiencies have been corrected.
- d. Lead Identification letter needs to be clarified.
- e. Bolser Exhibit on Sunday, 11/17/2024, Presbyterian Church 200th Anniversary on 5/11/25.

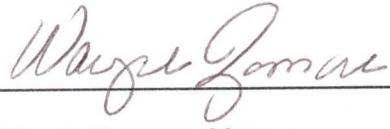
## IX. Adjournment - Jeff motioned to adjourn @ 9:04 pm, Amber seconded.

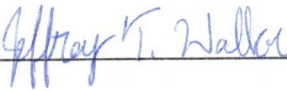
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

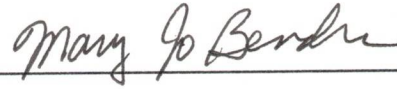
a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

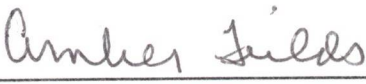
Vernon Town Council

  
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John Post, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

  
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Wayne Zamora, Mayor

  
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Jeff Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

  
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Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk

  
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Amber Fields, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward